

Message Text

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21

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 DEAE-00 VO-03 INSE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB:RMGIBSON:MFG

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

EA/TB:JHELBLE

EA/RA:MGELNER (

CUSTOMS:JMCMANUS(DRAFT)

S/NM:JRAFFERTY

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R 141656Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO CUSTOMS HONOLULU

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS SEARCH PROCEDURES

REFERENCE: BANGKOK 25135

1. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY U.S. CUSTOMS, IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND HONOLULU, THAT THERE IS NO REPEAT NO SPECIAL SEARCH POLICY TOWARDS THAI CITIZEN TRAVELLERS. CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT HONOLULU, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER U.S. PORTS OF ENTRY, DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF THEIR SEARCH PROCEDURES ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. BODY SEARCHES, SUCH AS DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL, ARE ONLY RARELY CONDUCTED, AND THEN ONLY ON THE BASIS OF UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR VERY WELL FOUNDED SUSPICIONS. THESE SEARCHES ARE ALWAYS CONDUCTED BY MEMBERS OF SAME SEX IN PRIVATE SEARCHING ROOM IN COURTEOUS, EFFICIENT MANNER.

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CUSTOMS INSPECTORS BASE THEIR ACTIONS UPON ESTABLISHED PRO-

FILES WHICH INVOLVE CRITERIA SUCH AS HOW THE TRAVELLER RESPONDS TO INITIAL QUESTIONING, WHERE HE HAS TRAVELLED, AND SIMILAR FACTORS. IN FACT, U.S. CITIZEN TRAVELLERS MOST FREQUENTLY MATCH ESTABLISHED PROFILES, AND THE GREAT MAJORITY OF BODY SEARCHES ARE DIRECTED AT AMERICANS. ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THAI TRAVELLERS RECEIVE MORE THAN INITIAL SCREENING, AND OF THESE ONLY A VERY FEW ARE SUBJECTED TO BODY SEARCHES.

2. WITHOUT MORE SPECIFICS (I.E. FLIGHTS, NAMES, DATES, ETC.) WE ARE UNABLE TO COMMENT UPON INDIVIDUAL CASES REFERRED TO IN REFTEL. ROBINSON

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